

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 EURE-00 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00

DLOS-04 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FEAE-00 FMC-01

TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAL-01 /118 W  
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P R 051809Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9596

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

SECDEF

CINCLANT

CINCUSNAVEUR

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EFIS, NATO, MARR, IC, UK

SUBJECT: UK-ICELAND FISHERIES DISPUTE

REF: LONDON 1805

1. FOLLOWING MEMORANDUM ON UK-ICELAND FISHERIES DISPUTE WAS TRANSMITTED ON MARCH 4 FROM FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN TO AMBASSADORS IN LONDON REPRESENTING NATO COUNTRIES, BUT NOT RECEIVED AT EMBASSY UNTIL MARCH 5.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

"1. ON 4 FEBRUARY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS INFORMED NATO AMBASSADORS ABOUT THE ABORTIVE NEGOTIATIONS WITH ICELAND IN LONDON ON 24-27 JANUARY. ON 4 FEBRUARY HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT, WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE FISHING INDUSTRY, BRITAIN HAD DECIDED TO EXERCISE VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT BY:

- (1) LIMITING HER ANNUAL CATCH OF ALL SPECIES OF FISH OFF ICELAND TO 100,000 TONNES PA (INCLUDING 85,000 TONNES OF COD);
- (2) REDUCING THE SIZE OF THE BRITISH TRAWLER FLEET OPERATING OFF ICELAND TO A LISTED 105 TRAWLERS, (OF WHICH NOT MORE THAN ONE THIRD NORMALLY FISH WITHIN 200 MILES OF ICELAND AT ANY ONE TIME).

IN ADDITION, BRITISH TRAWLERS ARE:

- (3) CONTINUING TO OBSERVE THE CONSERVATION AREAS AGREED IN THE 1973-75 INTERIM ANGLO/ICELANDIC FISHERIES AGREEMENT. BRITISH TRAWLERS HAVE ALSO BEEN OBSERVING THE SMALL BOAT AREAS LAID DOWN IN THAT AGREEMENT, ALTHOUGH THESE ARE NOT CONSERVATION AREAS.

2. IN THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF THE OPERATION OF THESE MEASURES OF SELF-RESTRAINT (9-21 FEBRUARY), A TOTAL OF 2,474 TONNES OF FISH WAS CAUGHT BY BRITISH VESSELS IN WATERS OFF ICELAND (COMPARED WITH 3,196 TONNES IN THE SAME PERIOD OF 1975). OF THESE TOTALS COD ACCOUNTED FOR

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2,214 TONNES IN 1976 (2,959 TONNES IN 1975). THE 1976 FIGURES ARE BELOW THE CUMULATIVE TARGET CATCH FIGURE FOR THE TWO WEEK PERIOD, DRAWN UP IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OVERALL 100,000 TONNES CEILING MENTIONED ABOVE.

3. THE LIST OF 105 TRAWLERS NAMED BY THE BRITISH FISHING INDUSTRY TO WORK OFF ICELAND HAS NOW BEEN COMPILED; SKIPPERS HAVE BEEN REMINDED THAT THEY SHOULD,

FOR THEIR OWN SAFETY, ONLY FISH OFF ICELAND IN THE AREA DESIGNATED BY THE BRITISH DEFENCE COMMANDER. THESE AREAS WILL NOT, OF COURSE, INFRINGE THE CONSERVATION AREAS MENTIONED ABOVE.

4. BRITISH FISHING VESSELS ARE OBSERVING THE RESTRICTIONS MN NET MESH SIZES (MINIMUM 130 MM) AND FISH SIZES (MINIMUM LENGTH 43 CM) LAID DOWN FOR COD FISHING IN THESE WATERS BY THE NORTH EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION (NEAFC). THESE RESTRICTIONS ARE CONSERVATION MEASURES DESIGNED TO PREVENT THE CAPTURE OF UNDER-SIZED FISH. THERE HAVE RECENTLY BEEN PRESS REPORTS THAT FISH FROM WATERS OFF ICELAND HAVE BEEN LANDED IN QUANTITY AT BRITISH PORTS AND USED FOR FISH MEAL AND PET FOOD. WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT A SMALL QUANTITY OF WHITE FISH WENT FOR SALTING DOWN OR PROCESSING IN THE LAST WEEK OF FEBRUARY, THIS REFLECTED EXCEPTIONALLY DEPRESSED MARKET CONDITIONS FOLLOWING UNUSUALLY LARGE LANDINGS OF FROZEN WHITE FISH FROM FOREIGN VESSELS. THE REPORTS REFERRED

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SS-15 USIA-06 SAL-01 /118 W

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P R 051809Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9597

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
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TO SHOULD BE JUDGED AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE MOST  
RECENT STATISTICS WHICH SHOW THAT IN 1975 ONLY 1 PERCENT  
OF COD LANDED AT BRITISH PORTS WAS NOT USED FOR HUMAN  
CONSUMPTION.

5. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BRITISH MEASURES OF SELF-  
RESTRAINT HAS NOT, UNFORTUNATELY, BEEN MATCHED BY ANY  
REDUCTION IN THE LEVEL OF HARASSMENT OF BRITISH TRAWLERS  
BY THE ICELANDIC COASTGUARD: ON THE CONTRARY HARASSMENT  
HAS INCREASED. IN VIEW OF THE CONTINUED ATTACKS ON  
BRITISH TRAWLERS IT HAS BEEN NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN PRO-  
TECTION BY ROYAL NAVAL FRIGATES AND CIVILIAN VESSELS.  
THE ACTIVITIES OF THESE VESSELS ARE PURELY DEFENSIVE.  
HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT REGRET THAT THEIR PROPOSAL THAT  
NATO OBSERVERS SHOULD BE STATIONED ON BOTH THE ROYAL  
NAVAL FRIGATES AND THE ICELANDIC COASTGUARD VESSELS HAS  
BEEN REJECTED. SUCH OBSERVERS WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO  
ASSESS ANY INCIDENTS OBJECTIVELY AND THEIR PRESENCE  
WOULD, IN THE VIEW OF HMG. HAVE HELPED TO REDUCE  
TENSIONS." ELD TEXT

3. COMMENT. THERE IS NOTHING NEW IN THE MEMORANDUM /  
BUT BRITISH MAY WELL HAVE HEARD THAT CONSENSUS IS  
BUILDING IN NAC AND IN SOME NATO CAPITALS FOR ALLIES TO

INCREASE PRESSURE ON UK TO WITHDRAW UNILATERALLY THE  
FRIGATES. THUS, PERHAPS, THE APOLOGIA.

ARMSTRONG

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## Message Attributes

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**Draft Date:** 05 MAR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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